

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain in the application. In response to the restriction requirement, applicant affirms the election of Invention I, claims 1-6.

This election is with traverse, since the product defined in claims 7-12 is defined by the method steps claimed, and thus inherently cannot be made by a materially different process. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement is thus respectfully requested.

The indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5 is acknowledged with appreciation. However, claim 1, as amended, is urged to define over the references cited by the Examiner in rejecting claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 USC 103(a) and to thus be allowable.

Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended to clarify the language. In addition, in claim 1, the substantial stiffening effect of the frame on the perimeter edge of the main panel is recited to better distinguish over the Agrawal et al. patent (U.S. 5,331,784) relied on in rejecting the claims. That patent describes attachment of a gasket 40, specified as being "flexible resilient" (col. 4, line 7) and made of compliant material (line 23).

Thus, the gasket 40 cannot be considered to significantly stiffen the edge of the main panel.

Accordingly, there would be no suggestion to one skilled in the art to use the gasket mounting techniques of Agrawal et al. to the integral perimeter stiffener of Ohtake et al. (U.S. 5,035,096). This would require a radical reconstruction of Ohtake et al. which is not suggested by these references.

Absent some suggestion in the prior art, it is not proper to combine references in this manner, In re Geiger, 2 USPQ2d 1276 (CAFC 1987).

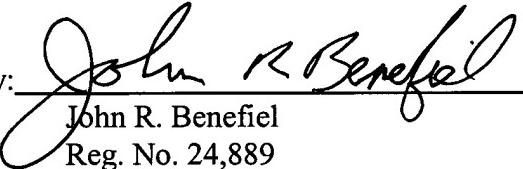
Further, the rib claimed in claim 3 is not met by rib 19 in Ohtake et al., as it does not form a rim offset from the plane generally defined by the main panel as now recited in claim 3 as amended.

Accordingly, all of the claims are urged to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Favorable reconsideration is thus urged to be proper.

Respectfully submitted,

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